

June 10, 1999

To Whom it May Concern,

I have read recently of the current intentions of the USDA to permit irradiated food. Though there has been opposition to this process by the organic standards committee I believe that most citizens, if they spent the time doing minimal research, would agree that the effects of irradiated food have not been studied just as the effects of DDT and other pesticides had not been determined before it/they were used to promote the food industry.

Docket # 98N-1038 at the FDA

The most ironic fact on the subject of food irradiation is that concern for food safety arose with the Mad Cow scare and factory farmers are not committed to changing their unsafe, unclean farming practices; thus, the need for food irradiation.

If farming were based on safe and simple technologies like organic or biodynamic agriculture there would not be scares of mutations or bacteria. We as a country should support the small organic farmers and not the nuclear or chemical industries which promote radiation and fertilizers/pesticides derived from chemicals.

Please recognize my concern about food irradiation as a safety hazard to people, in that mutations in the genetic composition of food may similarly cause mutations in the body through the introduction of free radicals. Secondly, the vitamin level of food after radiation is lessened.

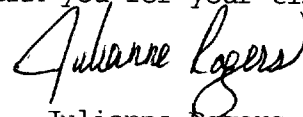
But also recognize my concern as having a greater scope; the nuclear industry who promotes radiation should not be supported. When fertilizers and pesticides were introduced into agriculture in the U.S. it was because so many chemicals were available after World War II that the U.S. governmental agencies had to discover another purpose or usage for them. Now with the

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introduction of food irradiation the nuclear industry which promotes war is the source for food safety? This simply is not just, in fact it is insidious.

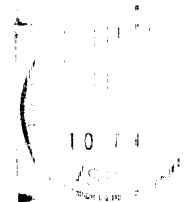
Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julianne Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Julianne Rogers
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